

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Davis Ave Fire Response - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region I

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Initial  
Davis Ave Fire Response  
01NC  
Norwood, MA  
Latitude: 42.1764167 Longitude: -71.2176531

**To:** Bryan Olson, USEPA R1 OSRR  
Polrep Distribution, USEPA-R1  
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**From:** John McKeown, On Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 6/18/2016

**Reporting Period:** 6/16/2016 - 6/18/2016

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	01NC	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S1-16-01
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	0009	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	6/16/2016	<b>Start Date:</b>	6/16/2016
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	MAN000101941	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response and Emergency Removal Action

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The site is an abandoned industrial facility that has been used for multiple uses including reportedly a dye and soap manufacturer, tannery, and pool chemical storage. Overnight on June 15-16, 2016 it caught fire and was engulfed in flames. By the morning of June 16, the fire had been suppressed, however firefighting water was periodically applied to smoldering pockets for several days. The building housed many containers of unknown contents and condition, some of which were leaking. The building is structurally

unsound and unsafe to enter without engineering controls and/or equipment for personnel safety.

Hawes brook, a tributary to the Neponset river flows underneath the building. Firefighting runoff water and leaking container contents, along with chemically saturated structural material are leaking uncontrollably into the brook through inaccessible flow paths. Release of contaminated firefighting runoff water to Hawes brook reportedly caused a fish and bird kill and discolored the brook a reddish color.

The site is in a densely populated industrial area.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

85 Davis Ave, Norwood, MA, 02062. (The initially reported address was 59 Davis Ave, an adjacent property.)

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Unknown chemicals leaking from containers and chemically saturated building materials, entrained in firefighting water uncontrollably releasing into Hawes brook. Specific chemicals are unknown at this time but due to the prior building uses; they could include acids, caustics, VOCs, dyes, and metal solutions. The release was of such hazard and toxicity that in addition to the reddish discoloration of Hawes brook, it caused a fish and bird kill of unknown magnitude. A potential air pathway release is presented by asbestos containing building materials damaged by the fire.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

EPA collected samples of firefighting runoff water and surface water. Analytical results are not yet available. By visible inspection and with a thermal imager, there are a large number of containers in degraded condition containing liquids inside of the damaged structure, some of which are leaking. Off site impacts included discoloration of surface waters and a fish and bird kill.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

Emergency response and emergency removal tasks requested of EPA by the unified command include:

- Sample and analyze firefighting runoff and surface water;
- Stop/mitigate the release of firefighting runoff water and leaking containers to Hawes brook from the building and the site. This includes containing/collecting and disposing of runoff water on the site grounds and accessible portions of the building and disassembling the building and moving/securing containers as necessary to secure the release from the building to the brook.
- Address other uncontrollable releases discovered on site.
- Secure the site with fencing and signage

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

EPA Actions:

- Runoff and surface water samples were taken on 6/16/2016 and delivered to the EPA Region 1 lab for analysis, results are expected the week of 6/20/2016
- Equipment has been delivered to contain, pump and store runoff water on site.
- Heavy equipment is being delivered to disassemble the building and move/secure containers to mitigate the release to the brook.
- Temporary fencing and signage restricting access to the building is in place.
- Assessment of hazardous materials and potential sources of release is ongoing.

Other Unified Command Actions:

- Norwood Fire Department continues to apply firefighting water to control smoldering hotspots and to support management and handling of asbestos containing material (ACM).
- Norwood Fire and Police are providing site security presence.
- MassDEP is supporting the response.
- MA Fish & Wildlife is assessing fish and bird kill extent.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Town officials report the site has been abandoned for 10-15 years. A search of town records indicates a potential property owner who resides in Florida. Multiple attempts to reach the owner have been unsuccessful to date. EPA sent an access request by overnight UPS delivery to the property owner address of record on 6/17/2016. Per concurrence of Region 1 counsel, EPA actions on-site are proceeding on an emergency basis to address uncontrollable and continuing releases to the environment.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

See below detail:

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

On site:

- Mitigate/control/contain and dispose of runoff water on the site grounds and in the building;
- Safely and cautiously disassemble the building and secure leaking and damaged containers to stop the release of potential contamination from the building to Hawes Brook;
- Plug and stop outflows releasing from the building to the brooks once they are discovered.
- Restrict access to the site.
- Address other uncontrollable releases as discovered.
- Continue supporting the unified command

Off-site:

- Provide runoff and surface water sample analysis results to response partners and relevant EPA program staff.
- Continue to provide information to PIO and CIC staff.
- Continue efforts to locate and engage the property owner and obtain access.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

See above. Support operations in the REOC; complete Action Memo and formal ERRS Task order materials.

### 2.2.2 Issues

- Public and Media relations: The site has generated significant public and media attention with many "drive-by" visits by the public and media information requests. PIO/CIC support has been requested.
- Engaging the Property Owner: Efforts to contact the owner will continue. Emergency response efforts are in progress, but owner engagement will be needed once the emergency phase is complete to address remaining post-emergency contamination issues.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

None

## 2.4 Finance Section

### 2.4.1 Narrative

A verbal/email task order and scope of work to ERRS of \$50,000 was issued on 6/16/2016, the scope of work was amended and task order increased to \$100,000 on 6/17/2016

A START TDD of \$7,600 has been issued.

### Estimated Costs \*

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	100.00%
TAT/START	\$7,600.00	\$0.00	\$7,600.00	100.00%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$107,600.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$107,600.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

## 2.5 Other Command Staff

### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

- The OSC is the site safety officer. The building is unsafe to enter without heavy equipment and engineering controls.

### 2.5.2 Liaison Officer

- The OSC is liaising constantly with Unified Command members; town of Norwood and MassDEP officials.

### 2.5.3 Information Officer

- The OSC has been interviewed by several media outlets on-site and provided information to interested members of the general public, local government officials and the community.
- Support staff in the REOC has provided information to the PIO for release to the regional media.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

EPA

Norwood Fire Department

Norwood Police Department

Town of Norwood

MassDEP

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

MA Fish & Wildlife Department

## **4. Personnel On Site**

Personnel on site has varied throughout this period depending upon operations, approximate staffing:

EPA OSC (1)

EPA - START (2)

EPA - ERRS (8)

Norwood FD (4)

Norwood PD (1)

MassDEP (1)

## **5. Definition of Terms**

None

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

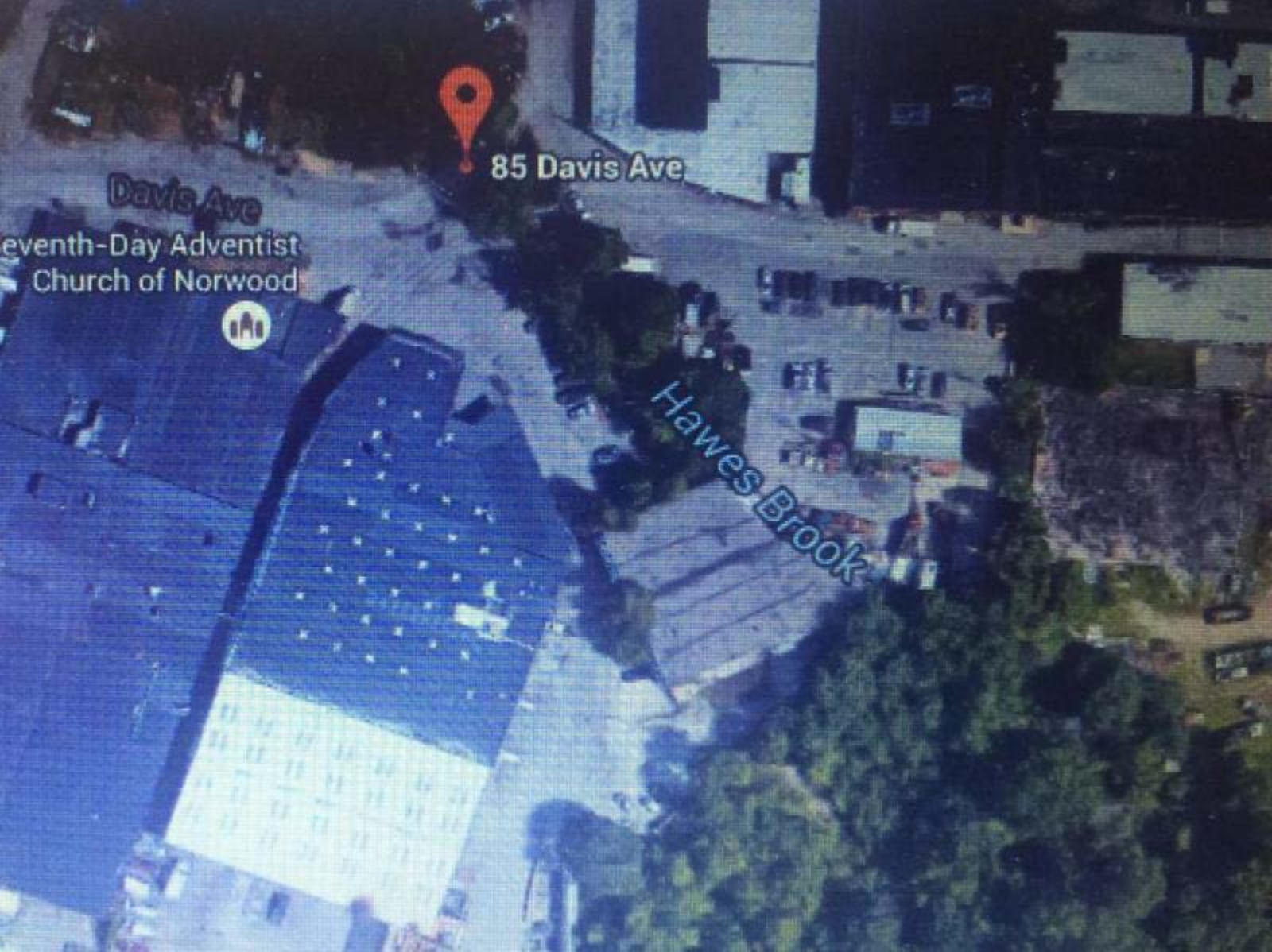
None other than this epaosc.org website.

### **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

Not designated at this time.

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.



85 Davis Ave

Davis Ave

Seventh-Day Adventist  
Church of Norwood



Hawes Brook









**NATIVE FILE TARGET SHEET**  
US EPA New England  
Superfund Document Management System

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<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"><div style="margin-right: 10px;">File Type(s) attached:</div><div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px; flex-grow: 1;">.JPG, .HTML</div></div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">Example: .jpg, .xls</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px; margin-top: 20px;"><div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"><div style="margin-right: 10px;">Description or Comments:</div><div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div></div></div>
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For any additional assistance please contact the EPA New England Office of Site  
Remediation and Restoration Records and Information Center  
617-918-1440